

Appl. No. 10/577,990
Amdt. dated March 10, 2009
Reply to Office action of Dec. 10, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for introducing a reducing agent containing urea into the exhaust of an internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising

 a reservoir,

 a delivery unit,

 a flow path for the reducing agent, the flow path leading from the reservoir to the delivery unit, the delivery unit delivering the reducing agent from the reservoir through the flow path,

 a ventilation device for ventilating at least one region of the flow path, the ventilation device being disposed in the flow path leading from the reservoir to the delivery unit and being situated at a geodetic high point of the flow path,

 a ventilation opening in the ventilation device that always permits a return of a minimal fluid quantity to the reservoir, and

 a ventilation return line connecting the ventilation opening and the reservoir.

9. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation device comprises a float valve.

10. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation device includes a solenoid valve.

11. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation device comprises a flow throttle.

12. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a filter, and wherein the ventilation device is situated in the filter or in close proximity to the filter.

13. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a filter, and wherein the ventilation device is situated in the filter or in close proximity to the filter.

14. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a filter, and wherein the ventilation device is situated in the filter or in close proximity to the filter.

15. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a filter, and wherein the ventilation device is situated in the filter or in close proximity to the filter.

16. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the filter is able to operate in two different installation positions that differ from each other by approximately 90° and wherein the ventilation device is situated at an angle of approximately 45° between the two installation positions.

17. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the filter is able to operate in two different installation positions that differ from each other by approximately 90° and wherein the ventilation device is situated at an angle of approximately 45° between the two installation positions.

18. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the filter is able to operate in two different installation positions that differ from each other by approximately 90° and wherein the ventilation device is situated at an angle of approximately 45° between the two installation positions.

19. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the filter is able to operate in two different installation positions that differ from each other by approximately 90° and wherein the ventilation device is situated at an angle of approximately 45° between the two installation positions.

20. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

21. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

22. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

23. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

24. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

25. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ventilation device is situated upstream of the delivery unit.

26. **(Currently amended)** An apparatus for introducing a reducing agent containing urea into the exhaust of an internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising
a reservoir,

a delivery unit,

a flow path for the reducing agent, the flow path leading from the reservoir to the delivery unit, the delivery unit delivering the reducing agent from the reservoir through the flow path,

a ventilation device for ventilating at least one region of the flow path, the ventilation device being disposed in the flow path leading from the reservoir to the delivery unit and being situated at a geodetic high point of the flow path,

a ventilation opening in the ventilation device that always permits a return of a minimal fluid quantity to the reservoir, and
a ventilation return line connecting the ventilation opening and the reservoir, wherein the ventilation device comprises a float valve.